



JPSW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: HARBAUGH, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/760,999 Group Art Unit: 3731

FILED: January 20, 2004 Examiner: EREZO, Darwin P.

FOR: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PERFORMING
MINIMALLY INVASIVE INCISIONS

Attorney Docket No.: 50642/287728

Date: October 5, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

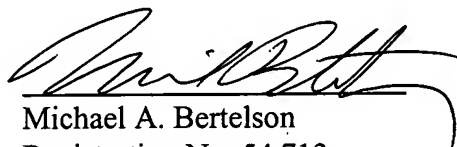
In accordance with Rules 56, 97 and 98 of the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98), the publications listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08a are cited for consideration by the Examiner. Copies of the cited non-U.S. publications are enclosed.

Submission of the references provided in this Supplemental Information Disclosure is not intended to constitute an admission that any reference referred to herein is prior art for this invention unless specially designated as such. Also, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

9353246

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), before the mailing date of an office action on the merits. Applicants believe that no fee is due for consideration of this paper. However, if a fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Bertelson
Registration No. 54,713

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
Suite 2800, 1100 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530
Phone (404) 815-6500

**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/760,999
	Filing Date	January 20, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Mark Harbaugh
	Art Unit	3731
	Examiner Name	Erezo, Darwin P.
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	50642/287728

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Form PTO/SB/08/ (01 sheet) 03 Publications
Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm	Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP		
Signature			
Printed Name	Michael A. Bertelson		
Date	October 5, 2006	Reg. No.	54,713

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Signature			
Typed or printed name	Cicily Stancil	Date	October 5, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/760,999
Filing Date	January 20, 2004
First Named Inventor	Robert C. THORNBERRY
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	50642/287728

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-5,947,971	09-1999	Kuslich, et al.	
		US-5,980,535	11-1999	Barnett, et al.	
		US-6,383,188	05-2002	Kuslich, et al.	
		US-6,993,374 B2	01-2006	Sasso	

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		WO 2004/084740	10-07-2004	Brevig		
		WO 2006/044367 A1	04-27-2006	Smith & Nephew		
		WO 2006/060631 A1	06-08-2006	Smith & Nephew		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.